

ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
3RD DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND LABOR
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COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET



WASHINGTON:
2328 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4603
(202) 225-8351

DISTRICT OFFICE:
2600 WASHINGTON AVENUE
SUITE 1010
NEWPORT NEWS, VA 23607-4333
(757) 380-1000

WWW.BOBBSYSCOTT.HOUSE.GOV

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4603

December 1, 2021

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland,

I am writing to follow up on my April 14, 2021 letter requesting a federal investigation into the March 26, 2021 killing of Mr. Donovan Lynch by an officer of the Virginia Beach Police Department (VBPD). Your response to my letter stated that you were aware of the incident and were monitoring the state investigation.

The Commonwealth's Attorney for Virginia Beach announced yesterday that he will not file criminal charges against the officer involved in the fatal shooting leaving many questions unanswered about what occurred that evening. I remain concerned with public reports of how this matter has been handled by VBPD, the divergent accounts of the events leading to Mr. Lynch's death, and to what occurred immediately after the shooting. I urge you to move swiftly to utilize the full resources and transparency of the U.S. Department of Justice to conduct an investigation.

This incident is part of an alarming series of interactions between law enforcement and individuals of color. It is, therefore, imperative that your department open a federal criminal and civil rights investigations into the death of Mr. Lynch. The residents of Hampton Roads deserve transparency, accountability, and confidence in the investigation of this death.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bobby Scott".

ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
Member of Congress